

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 DHA-05
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R 070321Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5881
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19763

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PDIP, EAID, VM, US
SUBJ: US-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS

1. LEFTIST EUROPEAN JOURNALIST/SCHOLAR WITH EXCELLENT CONTACTS
IN SRV, RECOUNTED CONVERSATION HE HAD RECENTLY IN HANOI WITH
SRV VICE FONMIN PHAN HIEN CONCERNING US-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS.
PHAN HIEN EXPRESSED HIS REGARD FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE.
NOTING THAT PREVIOUS US GOVERNMENTS HAD INDICATED THE PROPER
ATTITUDE TOWARD US-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS, HE REPORTEDLY SAID
THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS MATCHED A GOOD ATTITUDE WITH
GOOD ACTION. HE STRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE RETURN IN LATE SEPTEMBER
OF THE REMAINS OF THE 22 AMERICANS WOULD END THE MATTER (OF MIAS).
JOURNALIST INTERPRETED THIS REMARK TO MEAN THAT FIERCE OPPOSITION
REMAINS WITHIN THE POLITBURO IN HANOI TO ACCOMMODATING AMERICAN
REQUESTS CONCERNING AMERICAN MIA'S. PHAN HIEN EMPHASIZED THAT IT
WAS IN THE INTEREST OF THE US AS WELL AS, OF COURSE, VIETNAM
THAT THE SRV BECOME ECONOMICALLY STRONG AND STABLE AND NOT BECOME
DEPENDENT ON OTHER GREAT POWERS, (WITHOUT MENTIONING THE PRC
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OR USSR BY NAME). IN THIS CONNCTION, PHAN HEIN SPOKE OF AMERICAN
ASSISTANCE WITH RECONSTRUCTION, TRADE, INVESTMENT, ETC., BUT
DID NOT RPT NOT MENTION "REPARATIONS" OR "HEALING THE WOUNDS OF
WAR". OUR JOURNALIST COMMENTED THAT VIETNAMESE LEADERSHIP IS
SERIOUSLY DIVIDED ON THE QUESTION OF RELATIONS WITH THE US. SUCH
FIGURES AS PHAN HIEN, PRIMER PHAM VAN DONG, AND VICE PRIMER
LE THANH NGHI, FAVOR ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH THE US, BUT

OTHERS, SUCH AS PARTY LEADERS LE DUAN AND TRUONG CHINH, ARE PROBABLY LESS ENTHUSIASTIC OR WILLING TO COMPROMISE TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.

2. COMMENT: REPORTED REFERENCE TO US AID BY PHAN HIEN MAY BE DESIGNED TO TAKE NOTE OF CRITICAL VIEWS IN VIETNAMESE POLTIBURO ON RECONCILIATION WITH THE U.S. OUR JOURNALIST SOURCE BELIEVES THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY IN THE SRV ON RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.
O'DONOHUE

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